

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2021*

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to support this bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act: which honors our values, supports our servicemembers and families, strengthens our security and advances our leadership in the world.

Thank you to Chairman SMITH, the Committee and staff for their patriotic, persistent leadership on this legislation, which reflects the brilliance and diversity of the whole House.

This bill honors our responsibility to meet the needs of the servicemembers who sacrifice for our freedoms, and their families. It does so by:

Providing a pay raise for our men and women in uniform,

Strengthening parental leave for caregivers,

Expanding access to child care,

Improving the financial security of military members, including those who are low-income and have family members living with disabilities,

Protecting military communities from PFAS “forever chemicals.”

This NDAA also makes historic changes to better combat sexual assault in the military, including creating an Office of Special Victim Prosecutor within each service to prosecute crimes and criminalizing sexual harassment under the UCMJ (Uniform Code of Military Justice).

And it improves military health care, including related to mental health, women's reproductive health and suicide prevention.

In terms of protecting our security, there are many provisions of which to be proud in this NDAA. This legislation helps America combat our adversaries and invest in our alliances—with strong action to deter China and Russia, fight transnational threats and counter violent extremism.

And it brings our defense further into the 21st Century—with an historic 36 percent increase in defense-wide research & development, \$2.5 billion to fix aging infrastructure & support security-related R&D, \$1 billion in new cybersecurity investments, over \$1 billion for artificial intelligence efforts and investments in new partnerships with the private sector and academia, including HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

This NDAA builds on Congress's bipartisan action in passing Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) legislation to provide for the relocation of our Afghan allies and partners, as it authorizes \$500 million for this effort.

This bipartisan policy bill has been signed into law for 60 consecutive years. We all look forward to seeing the Congress continue this proud tradition, as we pass this NDAA on a bipartisan basis and send it to the President's desk for his signature.

Doing so allows us to honor the vision of our Founders, as set out in the Preamble, to “provide for the common defense,” and “secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.”

## ALL-AMERICAN CITY TEAM OF WHEAT RIDGE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the All-American City Team of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2021 Special Recognition City Award.

The Special Recognition City Award is given to a person, group or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community. The All-American City designation is given to cities that have exemplified extraordinary qualities as a municipality and provides a great quality of life for its residents. The City of Wheat Ridge is most certainly deserving of this designation, thanks to the help of the All-American City Team. Its members include Val Nessler Beck, Kate Cooke, Terry Gale, Rachel Hultin, Eugene Kahng, Diana Lopez, Kathleen Martell, Joy Opp, Morgan Richards, Jenny Snell, Jesse Johnson, Adam Wylie, Coco Beck, Thalia Beck, Dave Nosler, and Matt Emerson. These men and women display passion and commitment to their community, and I appreciate their hard work to ensure the City of Wheat Ridge gets the recognition it deserves.

Congratulations to City of Wheat Ridge's All-American City Team for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

## HONORING LABRITTANY NICOLE KNIGHT

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight.

Ms. Knight is a native of Indianola, Mississippi. She graduated from Mississippi State University where she received her B.S. in Information Technology Services. After graduation, Knight took a job as Technical Support Representative at Cocolevio LLC.

Although born with spastic diplegia cerebral palsy, Knight said she views herself as very ambitious and conquers just about anything she sets her mind to. In her spare time, Knight spends time with her family and friends. She

is also very passionate about helping others and spreading awareness throughout the disability community. On September 19, 2021, Ms. Knight was announced Ms. Wheelchair Mississippi 2022.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. LaBrittany Nicole Knight for her achievements and being a role model for her community.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed a vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 268.

## HONORING CONSTITUTION WEEK 2021

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Constitution week.

234 years ago, The United States Constitution was signed guaranteeing our freedoms and inalienable rights from government tyranny. Our most sacred document defines our nation's principles and fundamental values that are the cornerstone for the greatness this country has achieved.

In honoring the Framers of the Constitution, let us take a moment and reflect on the promise of our civil liberties and celebrate the Constitution as the bedrock of the freedoms that together we all enjoy and cherish as Americans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating freedom, liberty, and the United States Constitution.

## HONORING JOE GONZALEZ AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 22, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a tireless advocate for the Hispanic/Latino community—Joe Gonzalez. Joe immigrated to Iowa in 1957 when he was 5, along with his mother and two younger brothers. Like many Iowa immigrant stories of the time, his family followed his father who came to work on the railroad. Joe is a retired member of the Des Moines Police Department where

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